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A FORTRAN PROGRAM FOR ESTIMATING PARAMETERS
IN A CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

Steven J. Bean
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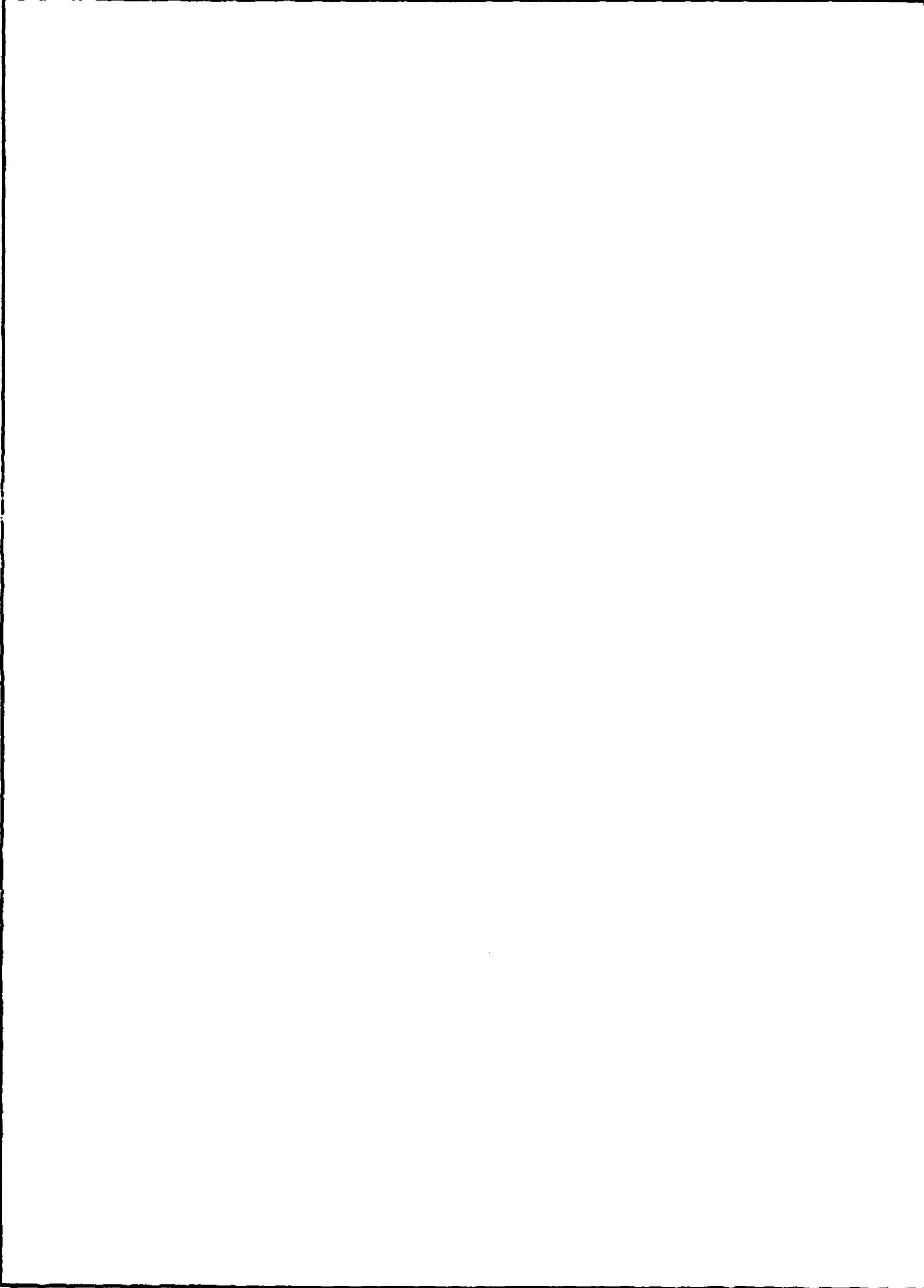
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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The report documents, and gives a listing for a FORTRAN program written to estimate the parameters of a cumulative distribution function which best fits an empirical cumulative distribution function in a least squares sense. Non-linear regression techniques are used. The program as listed uses the Weibull distribution for the fit, but with the replacement of certain modules the program may be used to fit many different distributions.		

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1. Introduction

Given a large set of measurements of some quantity or variable, it is often useful to model the data using some statistical distribution function. For example if one has records of the "visibility" at Milden-hall, England for 10 a.m. February over a number of years, one may fit a Weibull distribution to the data. The Weibull distribution has two parameters, and the values selected for the two parameters are the ones for which the model best fits the data.

This report documents a FORTRAN program that has been written to estimate the parameters of a statistical distribution function which best fits a set of measurements on some variable. The fit is "best" in the sense that the model cumulative distribution function and the empirical cumulative distribution function (from the data) are closest to each other in the least squares sense.

Suppose the measurements are ordered from smallest to largest, that is $x_{(1)} \leq x_{(2)} \leq x_{(3)} \leq \dots \leq x_{(N)}$ where $x_{(i)}$ represents the i th smallest measurement. Then the empirical cumulative distribution function may be defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{F}_N(x) &= \frac{2i-1}{2N} \quad \text{for } x_{(i)} \leq x < x_{(i+1)} \\ &= 0 \quad \text{for } x < x_{(1)} .\end{aligned}\quad (1.1)$$

If $F(x; \theta)$ is the model cumulative distribution function, then the values for θ (θ may be a vector of values) which are chosen are those which minimize the expression

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \left[(2i-1)/(2N) - F(x_{(i)}; \theta) \right]^2 . \quad (1.2)$$

In the FORTRAN program, the determination of θ , is accomplished by non-linear regression techniques where $\hat{F}_N(x) = (2i-1)/(2N)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$, is the dependent variable. Expression (1.2), the quantity to be minimized, is the "Residual Sum of Squares". A detailed description of the techniques used to fit distributions to data using non-linear regression techniques is given in Heuser, Somerville and Bean (1980).

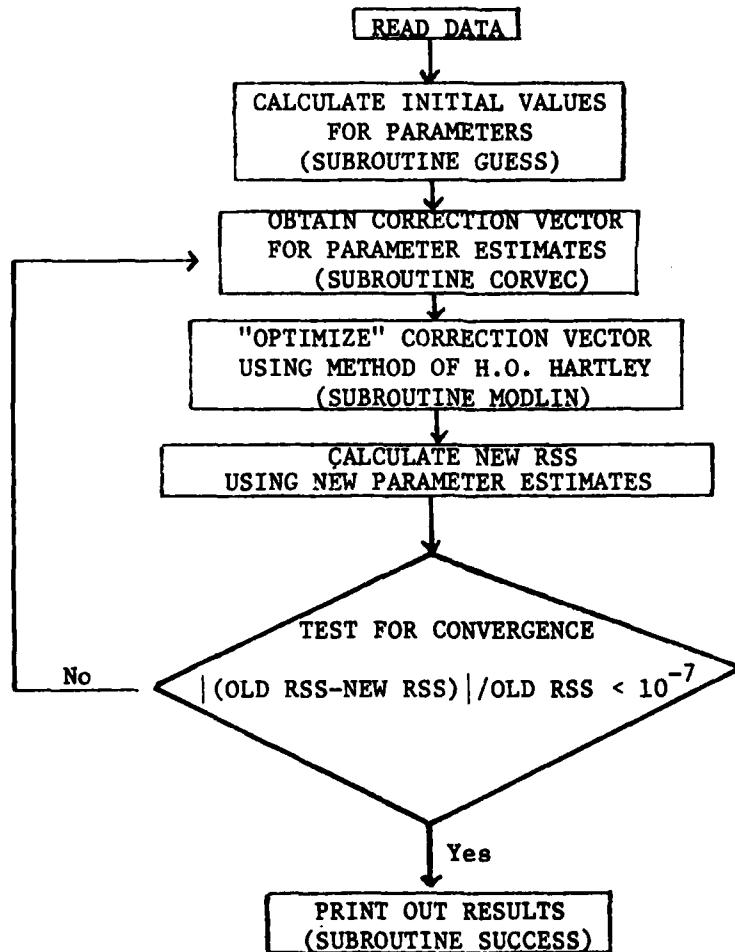
2. Flow Chart

In non-linear regression, the model may be written

$$y = F(x; \theta) + \epsilon , \quad (2.1)$$

where θ represents a vector of unknown parameters.

The usual technique is to linearize $F(x; \theta)$ by the use of a first order Taylor Series expansion about guessed values θ_0 . The expression (2.1) is then linear in $(\theta - \theta_0)$, and the usual least squares regression methods may be used to estimate $\theta - \theta_0$, the "correction" to the original guessed value. The procedure is then repeated with a first order Taylor Series expansion about the "corrected" guessed value for θ , the process terminating when the percentage reduction in residual sum of squares is less than some specified amounts. The flow chart below outlines the program.



3. FORTRAN Code

```
*****
C
C  TITLE: WEIBULL NONLINEAR REGRESSION PROGRAM
C          THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM REGRESSES VISIBILITY DATA ON THE
C          WEIBULL DISTRIBUTION.
C
C  INPUT: N, X(1:N), ACC, AND Y(1:N) (SEE VARIABLE DICTIONARY)
C          N, X(1:N), AND ACC ARE INPUT ONCE IN THE BEGINNING OF THE
C          PROGRAM. Y(1:N) IS INPUT ONCE FOR EACH REGRESSION.
C
C  OUTPUT: SUMMARY STATISTICS OF EACH REGRESSION INCLUDING ALPHA, BETA,
C          MONTH, HOUR, SID, RMS, COUNT, X(1:N), Y(1:N), PREDICTED
C          VALUES OF THE DISTRIBUTION, AND THE RESIDUALS.
C
C  SUBROUTINES: GUESS, SSE, WEIBULL, PSSEA, PSSEB, SUCCESS, FAIL,
C          SECANT, CORVEC, MODLIN
C
C  FOR A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE REGRESSION PROBLEM, SEE 'LEAST
C  SQUARES FITTING OF DISTRIBUTIONS USING NON-LINEAR REGRESSION' BY
C  MARK HEUSER, PAUL SOMERVILLE, AND STEVE BEAN.
C
C*****
C
C          VARIABLE DICTIONARY
C
C  N: THE NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS (MAXIMUM OF 15)
C  X(1:N): THE VALUES OF THE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE (DISTANCE)
C  Y(1:N): THE OBSERVED VISIBILITY PROBABILITIES AT EACH X
C  ALPHA,BETA: THE PARAMETERS IN THE WEIBULL MODEL
C  STARTA,STARTB: THE STARTING VALUES FOR ALPHA AND BETA COMPUTED BY
C                  THE SUBROUTINE 'GUESS'
C  CORA,CORB: THE CORRECTION VECTORS FOR ALPHA AND BETA COMPUTED BY
C                  THE SUBROUTINE 'CORVEC'
C  NRSS,ORSS: THE RSS FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE ESTIMATES OF ALPHA AND
C                  BETA. NRSS IS FROM THE NEWER ESTIMATE; ORSS IS FROM
C                  THE OLDER ESTIMATE.
C  MONTH,HOUR,SID: MONTH, HOUR, AND STATION IDENTIFIERS
C  COUNT: A LOOP COUNTER
C  CONVERGE: A LOGICAL VARIABLE THAT INDICATES CONVERGENCE.
C  ACC: AN INTEGER VALUE CONTROLLING THE ACCURACY OF THE STARTING
C      VALUES FOR ALPHA AND BETA. SEE SUBROUTINE 'GUESS'.
C
C*****
```

```

REAL ALPHA,BETA,X(15),Y(15),STARTA,STARTB,NRSS,ORSS,CORA,CORB
REAL SSE,WEIBUL,RMS
INTEGER SID,MONTH,HOUR,N,COUNT,ACC
LOGICAL CONVERGE
COMMON N,X,Y

C
10  WRITE(6,200)           ! PRINT A TITLE
C
20  READ,N                 ! INPUT THE NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS
30  READ,(X(I),I=1,N)      ! INPUT VALUES OF THE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE
40  READ,ACC                ! INPUT LEVEL OF ACCURACY OF STARTING VALUES
C
50  ! THE FOLLOWING LOOP INPUTS AND REGRESSES ON THE EMPIRICAL
60  ! DISTRIBUTION.  THE LOOP (AND THE PROGRAM) TERMINATES ON
70  ! END OF FILE.
C
80  READ(5,100,END=40) (Y(I),I=1,N),SID,MONTH,HOUR
C
90  CALL GUESS(STARTA,STARTB,ACC) ! GET STARTING VALUES FOR ALPHA
100 ALPHA=STARTA               ! AND BETA
110 BETA=STARTB
120 NRSS=SSE(ALPHA,BETA)
C
130 ! THE FOLLOWING LOOP SOLVES FOR ALPHA AND BETA.  CONVERGENCE IS
140 ! ASSUMED WHEN THE PROPORTIONAL CHANGE IN THE RSS FOR TWO CON-
150 ! SECUTIVE ESTIMATES IS LESS THAN 1E-7.
C
160 COUNT=0                   ! INITIALIZE THE LOOP CONTROL
170 CONVERGE=.FALSE.          ! VARIABLES
C
180 IF ((COUNT.GT.50).OR.,(CONVERGE)) GOTO 30
190 ORSS=NRSS
200 CALL CORVEC(ALPHA,BETA,CORA,CORB)
210 CALL MODLIN(ALPHA,BETA,CORA,CORB)
220 NRSS=SSE(ALPHA,BETA)
230 CONVERGE=ABS(ORSS-NRSS).LT.(ORSS*1.0E-7)
240 COUNT=COUNT+1
250 GOTO 20
C
260 IF (CONVERGE) THEN
270   CALL SUCCESS(SID,MONTH,HOUR,ALPHA,BETA,NRSS,COUNT)
280 ELSE
290   CALL FAIL(SID,MONTH,HOUR,STARTA,STARTB,ALPHA,BETA,NRSS)
300 END IF
C
310 GOTO 10
C
320 STOP
C
100 FORMAT(1X,14F4.3,15,I2,11)
200 FORMAT(///,35X,'NONLINEAR REGRESSION OF THE WEIBULL MODEL ON ',
$      'VISIBILITY DATA',///)
300 END

```

```

C
C*****WEIBUL*****C
C WEIBUL IS A REAL FUNCTION THAT COMPUTES THE VALUE OF THE WEIBULL   *
C DISTRIBUTION FOR THE INPUT PARAMETERS X, ALPHA, AND BETA.  ALL      *
C COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROCEDURE IS THROUGH THE PARAMETER LIST      *
C AND FUNCTION NAME.                                                 *
C
C*****SSE*****C
C
C SSE IS A REAL FUNCTION THAT COMPUTES THE SUM OF THE SQUARED ERRORS  *
C IN THE WEIBULL MODEL AS A FUNCTION OF ALPHA AND BETA.  COMMUNICA-  *
C TION WITH THE PROCEDURE IS DONE THROUGH THE PARAMETER LIST, THE      *
C FUNCTION NAME, AND THE COMMON BLOCK.                                 *
C
C*****CORVEC*****C
C
C CORVEC IS A SUBROUTINE THAT COMPUTES THE CORRECTION VECTORS CORA    *
C AND CORB.  COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROCEDURE IS DONE THROUGH THE      *
C PARAMETER LIST AND THE COMMON BLOCK.  THE INPUT PARAMETERS ARE      *
C ALPHA AND BETA; OUTPUT PARAMETERS ARE CORA AND CORB.               *
C
C*****SUBROUTINE CORVEC*****C
C
C SUBROUTINE CORVEC(ALPHA,BETA,CORA,CORB)
C     INTEGER I,N
C     REAL ALPHA,BETA,CORA,CORB
C     REAL DERA,DERB,TEMP,RS,WEIBUL,C11,C12,C22,D1,D2
C     REAL X(15),Y(15)
C     COMMON N,X,Y

```

```

C11=0.0      ! C11,C12,C22,D1, AND D2 REPRESENT A SYMMETRIC
C12=0.0      ! SYSTEM OF 2 EQUATIONS IN 2 UNKNOWNS. THE 2
C22=0.0      ! UNKNOWNS ARE CORA AND CORB. HERE C11,C12,C22,
D1=0.0      ! D1, AND D2 ARE INITIALIZED TO 0. IN THE DO
D2=0.0      ! LOOP THAT FOLLOWS, THEIR VALUES ARE COMPUTED.

C
DO 10 I=1,N
  RS=Y(I)-WEIBUL(X(I),ALPHA,BETA)      ! RS=OBS-EXP
  TEMP=X(I)**BETA
  DERA=TEMP*EXP(-ALPHA*TEMP)            ! DERIVATIVE WITH RESPECT
                                         ! TO ALPHA
  DERB=DERA*ALOG(X(I))*ALPHA           ! DERIVATIVE WITH RESPECT
                                         ! TO BETA
  C11=C11+(DERA**2)                    ! COMPUTE C11
  C12=C12+(DERA*DERB)                  ! COMPUTE C12
  C22=C22+(DERB**2)                    ! COMPUTE C22
  D1=D1+(DERA*RS)                     ! COMPUTE D1
  D2=D2+(DERB*RS)                     ! COMPUTE D2
10
C
CONTINUE

C
TEMP=(C11*C22)-(C12**2)                ! NOW THE SYSTEM IS SOLVED
                                         ! USING CRAMER'S RULE
                                         ! TEMP IS THE DETERMINANT

CORA=((D1*C22)-(D2*C12))/TEMP
CORB=((C11*D2)-(D1*C12))/TEMP
RETURN
END

C
*****+
C MODLIN IS A SUBROUTINE THAT IMPLEMENTS THE MODIFICATION OF THE
C LINEARIZATION METHOD PROPOSED BY H.O. HARTLEY IN HIS PAPER "THE
C MODIFIED GAUSS-NEWTON METHOD FOR THE FITTING OF NON-LINEAR REGRES-
C SION FUNCTIONS BY LEAST SQUARES." ALL COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRO-
CEDURE IS DONE THROUGH THE PARAMETER LIST: ALPHA,BETA,CORA,CORB.
C MODLIN OPTIMIZES THE CORRECTION VECTORS COMPUTED BY CORVEC AND THEN
C ADDS THEM TO ALPHA AND BETA. WHEN THE PROCEDURE RETURNS, ALPHA AND
C BETA ARE THE NEW PARAMETER ESTIMATES. THE VALUES OF CORA AND CORB
C MAY HAVE BEEN CHANGED IN THE PROCEDURE.
C
*****+
C
SUBROUTINE MODLIN(ALPHA,BETA,CORA,CORB)
  REAL ALPHA,BETA,CORA,CORB
  REAL Q0,Q1,Q2,V,SSE,DENOM
  REAL TEMP

C
  ! LET THETA=(ALPHA,BETA) BE THE CURRENT PARAMETER VALUES AND
  ! DELTA=(CORA,CORB) BE THE CORRECTION VECTOR. MODLIN ESTIMATES
  ! THE VALUE OF V>0 THAT MINIMIZES SSE(THETA+V*DELTA). SSE IS
  ! COMPUTED AT THETA (Q0), THETA+.5*DELTA (Q1), AND THETA+DELTA
  ! (Q2). V IS FOUND SO THAT THETA+V*DELTA IS THE VERTEX OF THE
  ! PARABOLA PASSING THROUGH Q0, Q1, AND Q2.

```

```

C
Q0=SSE(ALPHA,BETA)
Q1=SSE(ALPHAT+.5*CORA,BETAT+.5*CORB)
Q2=SSE(ALPHA+CORA,BETA+CORB)

C
10  DENOM=4.0*(Q2+Q0-(2.0*Q1))

C
! IF DENOM IS CLOSE TO ZERO THEN WE CAN'T COMPUTE V WITHOUT
! PRODUCING A DIVIDE-BY-ZERO OR FLOATING-POINT-OVERFLOW
! ERROR. IN THIS CASE, ADD THE CORRECTION VECTOR ASSOCIATED
! WITH THE MINIMUM OF Q1 AND Q2 TO ALPHA AND BETA.

C
IF (ABS(DENOM).LT.1E-15) THEN
  IF (Q1.LT.Q2) THEN
    ALPHA=ALPHAT+.5*CORA
    BETA=BETAT+.5*CORB
  ELSE
    ALPHA=ALPHAT+CORA
    BETA=BETAT+CORB
  END IF
  RETURN
END IF

C
V=.5+((Q0-Q2)/DENOM)
TEMP=SSE(ALPHA+V*CORA,BETA+V*CORB)

C
! IF V<Q0 OR TEMP>Q0 THEN THE COMPUTATION OF V IS REDONE WITH
! DELTA=.5*DELTA.

C
IF ((V.LT.0.0).OR.(TEMP.GT.Q0)) THEN
  CORA=.5*CORA
  CORB=.5*CORB
  Q2=Q1
  Q1=SSE(ALPHAT+.5*CORA,BETAT+.5*CORB)
  GOTO 10
END IF

C
ALPHA=ALPHAT+V*CORA
BETA=BETAT+V*CORB
RETURN
END

C*****
C
C GUESS IS A SUBROUTINE THAT FINDS STARTING VALUES FOR ALPHA AND *
C BETA. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROCEDURE IS THROUGH THE PARAMETER *
C LIST AND THE COMMON BLOCK. ALPHA AND BETA ARE BOTH OUTPUT PARA- *
C METERS; ACC IS AN INPUT PARAMETER.
C
C*****

```

```

SUBROUTINE GUESS(ALPHA,BETA,ACC)
EXTERNAL FSSEA,FSSEB
INTEGER I,J,N,E(3),ACC
REAL ALPHA,BETA,C(3),D(3),T1,T2,FSSEA,FSSEB
REAL X(15),Y(15)
LOGICAL CONVERGE
COMMON N,X,Y

! GIVEN TWO DATA POINTS IN THE EMPIRICAL DISTRIBUTION, WE CAN
! SOLVE FOR ALPHA AND BETA SO THAT THE WEIBULL MODEL FITS
! THROUGH THOSE TWO POINTS EXACTLY. GUESS CHOOSES THREE DATA
! POINTS AND FITS THE WEIBULL THROUGH THE FIRST TWO, THE LAST
! TWO, AND THE FIRST AND LAST POINTS, THUS ARRIVING AT THREE
! DIFFERENT ESTIMATES FOR ALPHA AND BETA. THE AVERAGES OF THE
! THREE ESTIMATES ARE USED AS STARTING VALUES FOR ALPHA AND
! BETA

ALPHA=0.0
BETA=0.0
IF (Y(N),EQ,0.0) RETURN

E(1)=2           ! THE VALUES OF E(1), E(2), AND E(3) DETERMINE
E(2)=8           ! WHICH THREE DATA POINTS ARE CHOSEN. HERE THE
E(3)=13          ! 2ND, 8TH, AND 13TH POINTS ARE USED.

DO 20 I=1,3
  D(I)=X(E(I))
  IF (Y(E(I)),EQ,0.0) THEN
    C(I)=.00001
  ELSE
    C(I)=Y(E(I))
  END IF
20 CONTINUE

DO 30 I=1+3
  J=MOD(I,3)+1
  T1=ALOG(ALOG(1.0-C(I))/ALOG(1.0-C(J)))/ALOG(D(I)/D(J))
  BETA=BETA+T1
  ALPHA=ALPHA+(-ALOG(1.0-C(I))/D(I)**T1)
30 CONTINUE

ALPHA=ALPHA/3.0
BETA=BETA/3.0

! MOST OF THE TIME THESE STARTING VALUES WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO
! BEGIN THE NONLINEAR REGRESSION PROCEDURE. SOME CASES
! HOWEVER, WILL REQUIRE EVEN MORE ACCURATE STARTING VALUES.
! THE FOLLOWING CODE OPTIONALLY IMPROVES THE STARTING VALUES
! DEPENDING ON THE VALUE OF ACC. ACC IS MERELY THE
! NUMBER OF TIMES THE LOOP BELOW IS EXECUTED. THE LOOP TRIES
! TO OPTIMIZE ALPHA FOR A FIXED BETA, AND THEN OPTIMIZES BETA
! FOR A FIXED ALPHA.

```

```

C
10    IF (ACC.LE.0) RETURN
C
20    DO 40 I=1,ACC
30      T1=ALPHA
40      T2=BETA
50      CALL SECANT(ALPHA,BETA,ALPHA,PSSEA,CONVERGE)
60      IF (CONVERGE) CALL SECANT(ALPHA,BETA,BETA,PSSEB,CONVERGE)
70      IF (.NOT.(CONVERGE)) GOTO 50
40    CONTINUE
80    RETURN
50    ALPHA=T1
90    BETA=T2
100   RETURN
110   END
C
C ****
C
C FAIL IS AN OUTPUT ROUTINE CALLED WHEN A DISTRIBUTION FAILS TO CON- *
C VERGE AFTER 50 ITERATIONS.  THE VALUES OF SEVERAL VARIABLES ARE   *
C WRITTEN TO THE OUTPUT FILE.  COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROCEDURE IS   *
C DONE THROUGH THE PARAMETER LIST AND THE COMMON BLOCK.  ALL PARA- *
C METERS ARE INPUT PARAMETERS.
C
C ****
C
C SUBROUTINE FAIL(SID,MONTH,HOUR,STARTA,STARTB,ALPHA,BETA,NRSS)
120   INTEGER SID,MONTH,HOUR,N,I
130   REAL STARTA,STARTB,ALPHA,BETA,NRSS,TEMP,X(15),Y(15),SSE
140   COMMON N,X,Y
C
150   TEMP=SSE(STARTA,STARTB)
160   WRITE(6,100)
170   WRITE(6,200) SID,MONTH,HOUR
180   WRITE(6,300)
190   WRITE(6,400) STARTA,STARTB,TEMP
200   WRITE(6,500) ALPHA,BETA,NRSS
210   WRITE(6,600)
220   WRITE(6,700)
230   DO 10 I=1,N
240     WRITE(6,800) X(I),Y(I)
10    CONTINUE
250   RETURN
C
100   FORMAT(1X,T30,25(' ')+//)
200   FORMAT(1X,'ATTENTION: STATION ',I2,' MONTH ',I2,', HOUR ',I2,
300   ' FAILED TO',/,1X,'CONVERGE AFTER 50 ITERATIONS.')
300   FORMAT(1X,'A VARIABLE DUMP FOLLOWS:',//)
400   FORMAT(1X,'STARTA=',G15.7,' STARTB=',G15.7,
500   '$      SSE(STARTA,STARTB)=',G15.7)
500   FORMAT(1X,'ALPHA=',G15.7,' BETA=',G15.7,
600   '$      SSE(ALPHA,BETA)=',G15.7)
600   FORMAT(1X,'ENDPTS',14X,'OBCUMFR')
700   FORMAT('+',4X,'-----',14X,'-----',/)
800   FORMAT(1X,G15.7,5X,G15.7)
810   END

```

```

C
C***** ****
C
C SUCCESS IS AN OUTPUT ROUTINE CALLED WHEN A DISTRIBUTION CONVERGES
C SUCCESSFULLY WITHIN 50 ITERATIONS. SUMMARY STATISTICS OF THE
C REGRESSION ARE WRITTEN TO THE OUTPUT FILE. COMMUNICATION WITH
C THE PROCEDURE IS THROUGH THE PARAMETER LIST AND COMMON BLOCK.
C ALL PARAMETERS ARE INPUT PARAMETERS.
C
C***** ****
C
C SUBROUTINE SUCCESS(SID,MONTH,HOUR,ALPHA,BETA,NRSS,COUNT)
  INTEGER SID,MONTH,HOUR,I,N,COUNT
  REAL ALPHA,BETA,NRSS,RMS,X(15),Y(15),EX,RS,WEIBUL
  COMMON N,X,Y
C
  RMS=SQRT(NRSS/FLOAT(N))
  WRITE(6,100)
  WRITE(6,200)
  WRITE(6,300)
  WRITE(6,400) SID,MONTH,HOUR,ALPHA,BETA,RMS,COUNT
  WRITE(5,500)
  WRITE(5,600)
  DO 10 I=1,N
    EX=WEIBUL(X(I),ALPHA,BETA)
    RS=Y(I)-EX
    WRITE(6,700) X(I),Y(I),EX,RS
10  CONTINUE
  RETURN
C
100  FORMAT(///,T31,35(*''),///)
200  FORMAT(10X,'STATION ID',5X,'MONTH',5X,'HOUR',10X,'ALPHA',15X,
$      'BETA',17X,'RMS',11X,'# OF ITERATIONS')
300  FORMAT('+',9X,'-----',5X,'-----',5X,'-----',10X,'-----',15X,
$      '-----',17X,'-----',11X,'-----',//)
400  FORMAT(12X,I6,2(8X,I2),6X,G14.7,4X,G14.7,4X,G14.7,11Y,13,//)
500  FORMAT(T38,'ENDPTS',5X,'ORCUMFR',10X,'EXCUMFR',12X,'RESIDUAL')
600  FORMAT('+',T38,'-----',5X,'-----',10Y,'-----',12Y,'-----',//)
700  FORMAT(T37,F7.4,6X,F5.3,7X,G15.7,5X,G15.7)
  END
C
C***** ****
C
C SECANT IS A SUBROUTINE THAT USES THE SECANT METHOD OF ROOT SOLVING
C TO FIND THE ROOT OF PSSEA HOLDING BETA CONSTANT, OR TO FIND THE
C ROOT OF PSSEB HOLDING ALPHA CONSTANT. (THIS MEANS IT WILL FIND THE
C BEST ALPHA FOR A GIVEN BETA, OR THE BEST BETA FOR A GIVEN ALPHA.)
C COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROCEDURE OCCURS THROUGH THE PARAMETER LIST
C AND THE COMMON BLOCK. IN THE PARAMETER LIST, ALPHA AND BETA ARE
C THE CURRENT VALUES OF THE MODEL PARAMETERS. FARM IS THE VARIABLE
C BEING OPTIMIZED (EITHER ALPHA OR BETA), AND FDER IS THE PARTIAL
C DERIVATIVE FUNCTION (EITHER PSSEA OR PSSEB). CONVERGE IS A LOGICAL
C VARIABLE INDICATING WHETHER THE SECANT METHOD CONVERGED ON A ROOT.
C TO SOLVE FOR THE ROOT OF PSSEA, SET FARM=ALPHA AND FDER=PSSEA. THE
C OPTIMIZED VALUE OF ALPHA WILL BE RETURNED. TO SOLVE FOR THE ROOT OF
C PSSEB, SET FARM=BETA AND FDER=PSSEB. THE OPTIMIZED VALUE OF BETA
C WILL BE RETURNED.
C
C***** ****

```

```

C
SUBROUTINE SECANT(ALPHA,BETA,PARM,PDER,CONVERGE)
REAL ALPHA,BETA,PARM,PDER,X(15),Y(15),T1,T2,T3,DELTA
INTEGER N,I
LOGICAL CONVERGE
COMMON N,X,Y
C
T2=PDER(ALPHA,BETA)
DELTA=.001
PARM=PARM+DELTA
CONVERGE=.TRUE.
C
DO 10 I=1,15
    T1=PDER(ALPHA,BETA)
    T3=T1-T2
    IF (ABS(T3),LE.1E-15) GOTO 15
    DELTA=(-T1*DELTA)/(T3)
    PARM=PARM+DELTA
    IF (ABS(DELTA),LE.1E-7) GOTO 20
    T2=T1
10    CONTINUE
C
15    CONVERGE=.FALSE.
20    RETURN
END

```

```

C*****
C
C PSSEA IS A REAL FUNCTION THAT COMPUTES THE PARTIAL DERIVATIVE OF SSEA*
C WITH RESPECT TO ALPHA.  COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROCEDURE OCCURE    *
C THROUGH THE FUNCTION NAME, COMMON BLOCK, AND PARAMETER LIST.  ALPHA * *
C AND BETA ARE INPUT PARAMETERS; THE VALUE OF THE DERIVATIVE IS    *
C RETURNED THROUGH THE FUNCTION NAME.                                *
C
C*****

```

```

C
REAL FUNCTION PSSEA(ALPHA,BETA)
REAL ALPHA,BETA,X(15),Y(15),T1,T2
INTEGER N,I
COMMON N,X,Y
C
PSSEA=0.0
DO 10 I=1,N
    T1=X(I)**BETA
    T2=EXP(-ALPHA*T1)
    PSSEA=PSSEA+(Y(I)-1.0+T2)*(-T1*T2)
10    CONTINUE
C
RETURN
END

```

```
*****
C
C PSSEB IS A REAL FUNCTION THAT COMPUTES THE PARTIAL DERIVATIVE OF
C SSE WITH RESPECT TO BETA. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROCEDURE OCCURS
C THROUGH THE FUNCTION NAME, COMMON BLOCK, AND PARAMETER LIST. ALPHA
C AND BETA ARE INPUT PARAMETERS; THE VALUE OF THE DERIVATIVE IS
C RETURNED THROUGH THE FUNCTION NAME.
C
*****
C
REAL FUNCTION PSSEB(ALPHA,BETA)
REAL ALPHA,BETA,X(15),Y(15),T1,T2,T3,T4
INTEGER N,I
COMMON N,X,Y
C
PSSEB=0.0
DO 10 I=1,N
  T1=X(I)**BETA
  T2=EXP(-ALPHA*T1)
  T3=-ALPHA*ALOG(X(I))*T1*T2
  T4=Y(I)-1.0+T2
  PSSEB=PSSEB+T3*T4
10  CONTINUE
C
RETURN
END
```

NONLINEAR REGRESSION OF THE WEIBULL MODEL ON VISIBILITY DATA

STATION ID		MONTH	HOUR	ALPHA	BETA	RMS	# OF ITERATIONS
1	1	1	1	0.3001646	0.6776246	0.2175113E-01	5
				ENDPTS	OCURER	EXCNER	RESIDUAL
0.2500	0.110	0.1107035	-0.7034689E-03				
0.3125	0.159	0.1275731	0.3142692E-01				
0.5000	0.202	0.1711044	0.3089564E-01				
0.6250	0.216	0.1961113	0.1988868E-01				
0.7500	0.229	0.2188597	0.1014027E-01				
1.0000	0.235	0.2593037	-0.2430369E-01				
1.2500	0.276	0.2947218	-0.1872179E-01				
1.5000	0.305	0.3263727	-0.2137274E-01				
2.0000	0.355	0.3812875	-0.2628747E-01				
2.5000	0.434	0.4279263	0.6073684E-02				
3.0000	0.437	0.4684348	-0.3143480E-01				
4.0000	0.353	0.5360345	0.1696545E-01				
5.0000	0.618	0.5906984	0.2730155E-01				
6.0000	0.642	0.6360627	0.5937338E-02				

4. Some Remarks About the Program

The program given in this report was written to fit the Weibull distribution to visibility data. The visibility data was that contained in the "Revised Uniform Summary of Weather Observations" (RUSSWO's) prepared by the Data Processing Division of the Air Weather Service. Some changes must be made to fit another distribution to another variable. The program is made up of a series of subroutines and functions so that these may be altered to fit the users need without changing the flow of the program.

The function WEIBUL must be replaced by the desired cumulative distribution function (CDF). Also, the name of the function, WEIBUL, must be changed throughout the program if the name of the function is changed. The subroutine GUESS which gives the initial values of the parameters must be changed to correspond to the distribution being used. The same basic idea can be used. However, it may take more programming for other distributions particularly if the distribution is not in closed form. The subroutine CORVEC must be changed where the partial derivatives DERA and DERB occur. Another change is required in the functions PSSEA and PSSEB which are functions which take partials with respect to each of the parameters of the sum of squared errors. The appropriate partials must replace those of the Weibull distribution in each of these functions.

The program was designed to run in a batch environment, and the rules of standard FORTRAN - IV were adhered to as closely as possible. The only departures from FORTRAN - IV are the use of the IF-THEN-ELSE-ENDIF structure commonly found in FORTRAN 77, and the use of the exclamation mark to permit comments on the same line as code. Both deviations were made merely for clarity's sake in the program.

5. Sample Output

A sample output is shown in page 14.

6. Reference

Heuser, M. L., P. N. Somerville, and S. J. Bean "Least Squares Fitting of Distributions Using Non-linear Regression".
AFGL-TR-80-0362.

